



Etoposide (VP16)

At the Clinical Center referred to as VP16.

How Given: Intravenously (by vein)

Drug Action: VP16 prevents cancer cells from dividing by breaking DNA. DNA is the genetic material in cells used to make new cells.

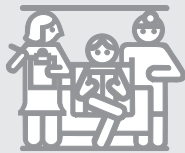
Side Effects:

1. Bone marrow effects can include a temporary decrease in white blood cells, platelets, and red blood cells. White blood cells and platelets usually decrease 7 to 14 days after treatment and recover within 20 days.
2. Mild nausea and vomiting can occur.
3. Lip, throat, and mouth sores can occur.
4. Temporary hair thinning or hair loss can occur.
5. Allergic reactions can occur, but are uncommon.

Special Instructions:

1. Tell your nurse immediately if you have any changes in breathing, light-headedness, or facial flushing during drug administration.
2. Do not take aspirin or aspirin-containing products unless prescribed by your NIH doctor.
3. Call your NIH doctor or nurse if you
 - have pain, discomfort, or redness at injection sites following treatment
 - are unable to drink for more than 1 day or unable to eat for more than 2 days after treatment

- have a temperature of 101.0 °F (38.3 °C) at any time, or have a temperature of at least 100.4 °F (38.0 °C) that lasts for 1 hour or occurs two times in a 24-hour period
- have any unusual bleeding or bruising



This information is prepared specifically for patients participating in clinical research at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health and is not necessarily applicable to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your healthcare team.

Living with Cancer Chemotherapy Series
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Nursing Department

Questions about the Clinical Center? OCCC@cc.nih.gov